

I am Wanda Lange from Missoula and I want to tell you about our son, Don. When he was 19, he was a passenger in an automobile accident. He was head injured and in a coma for 4 months. He is now 54 years old. The right side of his body is useless. He is in a wheelchair, with limited speech and no short term memory. He is a client at the North Howard Street Group Home.

You are currently evaluating the cost of this program and facility. I want to express my concern.

The daily cost for Don is 142.86. He needs 24 hour supervision, he is mentally and physically compromised. It is the budget for staffing that would be affected if there was a cut in funding. They would not have time to give him that appropriate level of care.

He is now living at his fullest potential, taken to a sheltered workshop, to church, etc. He is very happy and I appreciate their care.

If this quality of service was reduced because of the work load of the staff, our other option would be to return him to a nursing home where he was before entering into this program in 1984. The cost of his care would be about \$195.77 per day. The increase in cost per day would be \$52.91. The annual cost increase would be 19312.15.

But mostly his quality of life would be greatly diminished.

I ask you to take a good look at this information and assess which of these two service would be the best use of our tax dollars and the best for Don. All of the clients in this program are in need of full time care and a right to live a full life.

Thank you for listening and I am open to questions.